

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 MCE-00 IGA-02
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O 181712Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4424
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
DA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USDEL MC BRUSSELS BEL IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0460

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, MASS, MORG, MPOL, NATO, PO, GW
SUBJECT: TANKS FOR PORTUGAL: THE PROBLEM APPEARS MANAGEABLE

REF: BONN 00882 (DTG 171723Z JAN 78)

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE ARMY STAFF IS REWORKING THE DRAFT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE FRG, BUT ANTICIPATES NO MAJOR CHANGES. A REVISED VERSION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE FRG BY JAN 20. PORTUGAL CONTINUES TO ASSIGN HIGH PRIORITY TO PROMPT DELIVERY OF THE TANKS.
END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE ARMY STAFF OFFICER TOLD MAAG ARMY SECTION CHIEF JAN 18 THAT ARMY STAFF WAS REWORKING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE FRG. ARMY STAFF ANTICIPATED NO CONFIDENTIAL

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MAJOR CHANGES AND THOUGH WORK WOULD BE COMPLETED BY JAN 20 WHEN THE PORTUGUESE VERSION OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SENT TO THE GERMANS. MAAG OFFICER IMPRESSED UPON ARMY STAFF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE LETTER OF OFFER COULD BE SIGNED BY THE FRG BEFORE THE END-OF-THE MONTH DEADLINE. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE ARMY STAFF

OFFICER REITERATED PORTUGAL'S DESIRE TO RECEIVE THE TANKS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE; HE SPECIFICALLY DENIED ANY STUDY WAS UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE "WHETHER PORTUGAL REALLY NEEDS THE TANKS."

2. FRG POLITICAL COUNSELOR CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR JAN 18 THAT FRG WAS STILL AWAITING RESPONSE TO DRAFT AGREEMENT SUBMITTED TO PORTUGUESE. READING FROM CABLE FROM BONN, FRG POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY ON DEC 22 HAD INFORMED PORTUGUESE MILITARY ATTACHE THAT FRG WAS PREPARED TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF TANKS EVEN BEFORE SIGNATURE OF THE FRG-PORTUGAL MILITARY AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE PORTUGUESE, AS A MINIMUM, WOULD HAVE TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO AN AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE PORTUGUESE ARMY IS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TO TERMS WITH THE FRG PROMPTLY TO MEET THE END-OF-JAN DEADLINE. PORTUGAL CONTINUES TO ASSIGN HIGH PRIORITY TO PROMPT DELIVERY OF THE TANKS.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
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